

**Christopher R. Sasso, Ph.D.**  
NOAA/NMFS  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, FL 33149  
email: Chris.Sasso@noaa.gov

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**Education**

Ph.D. Biology	1999	University of Miami Dissertation: <i>Population Dynamics and Habitat Use in the Small Mammal Community of Key Largo</i>
B.S. Animal Science	1994	University of Illinois

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**Work Experience**

2002-Present	<b>National Marine Fisheries Service</b> Research Wildlife Biologist –Sea Turtle Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate long range and short term problems relating to turtles</li><li>• Recommend solutions for conservation, habitat preservation, and protection of turtles</li><li>• Author scientific papers for publication</li></ul>
2001-2002	<b>Ducks Unlimited, Inc</b> Regional Biologist <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver restorations on wetlands and associated uplands</li><li>• Grant writing to raise funds for restoration projects</li><li>• Project Oversight including: initiate projects, track expenses, ensure biological integrity, and coordinate with engineers, agencies, and private landowners</li><li>• Advise landowners on proper habitat management</li></ul>

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**Postdoctoral Experience**

2000-2001	<b>National Park Service/University of Miami</b> <i>Tropical Park Network Coordinator for Biological Inventories</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review literature for six National Parks to develop database on all vascular plants and vertebrates present in parks</li><li>• Use database to identify gaps in inventory information</li><li>• Develop study plan to fill in data gaps</li><li>• Supervise three graduate student assistants in data review and entry</li></ul>
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- 1999-2000      **University of Miami**  
*Postdoctoral Associate*
- *Teaching*  
Instructed Introductory Biology for non-majors fall and spring semesters
  - *Research*  
Habitat selection and competition in small mammals of a pineland/ hammock matrix in the Everglades

### **Research Experience**

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- 1999-2000      **Postdoctoral Associate, University of Miami**  
*Habitat selection and competition in small mammals of the Everglades*
- Investigated habitat use and competition between cotton rats and cotton mice in tropical hardwood hammocks embedded within pinelands in Everglades National Park
- 1995-1999      **Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Miami**  
*Population dynamics and habitat use in the small mammal community of Key Largo*
- Population dynamics and space use in response to habitat succession
  - Microhabitat use by three small mammal species
  - Competition in the small mammal community
  - Effect of habitat fragmentation of genetic structure of woodrats
- 1994-1999      **Research Associate, University of Miami**  
*The effect of island size and water level on the demography and movement of small mammals in the Everglades*
- Population dynamics and movement of cotton rats and rice rats in response to three islands size classes and hydro-period in a hammock island/sawgrass marsh habitat matrix
- 1994-1995      **Florida Game and Fish Commission Volunteer**  
*Abundance and distribution of the endangered Key Largo woodrat and cotton mouse*
- Determined the abundance and distribution of woodrats and cotton mice on Key largo, FL

## Teaching Experience

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| 1999-2000 | <b>Lecturer, University of Miami</b><br><i>Introductory Biological Science for non-majors</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructed two sections of a lecture course with 200 students in each section</li></ul>  |
| 1996-1999 | <b>Teaching Assistant, University of Miami</b><br><i>National Institute of Health/University of Miami Bridges Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tutored students in chemistry. Students in the program were under-represented minorities in the sciences. The goal was to encourage these students to receive advanced degrees in biological sciences.</li></ul> |
| 1995-1996 | <b>Teaching Assistant, University of Miami</b><br><i>General Biology Laboratory</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructed four sections of introductory biology laboratory</li></ul>  |
| 1996-1998 | <b>Research Mentor, University of Miami</b><br><i>Undergraduate Research Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mentored three undergraduate summer research projects. Projects were on space use, population demography, and optimal foraging by small mammals.</li></ul>  |

## Grants

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| 2002 | <b>NAWCA</b><br><i>Butte Basin and Colusa Trough Phase II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wetland and riparian habitat enhancement and restoration on state lands, federal refuges, and private lands in the Central Valley.</li></ul> |
| 2002 | <b>CALFED</b><br><i>Staten Island Wildlife Friendly Farming Demonstration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New pump station and internal levees to improve water control on the 9,200 acre island</li></ul>                             |
| 2001 | <b>CALFED</b><br><i>Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance System</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-design and construction of water delivery system of refuge</li></ul>  |

2000

**National Park Service**

*Biological Inventories and Monitoring Program, Tropical Parks Network*

- Grant to catalog all vascular plants and vertebrates in six national parks.
- Additionally, a study plan will be created which will be used by the Park Service to fill in any data gaps in the inventory.

**Presentations**

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- 1999 "Microhabitat use by small mammals in the tropical hardwood hammocks of Key Largo" Presented to the *American Society of Mammalogy*, Seattle, WA.
- 1997 "Population demography in the rodent community of Key Largo" Presented to the *American Society of Mammalogy*, Stillwater, OK.

**Publications**

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- Sasso, C. and B. Keith. (1999). The first record of *Cryptotis* from the Florida Keys *American Midland Naturalist* 141:411.
- Sasso, C and M. S. Gaines (2002). Population ecology of the endangered small mammals of Key Largo. *Florida Scientist* 65:115-125.
- Sasso, C and M. S. Gaines (2002). Competition in the small mammals of Key Largo. *Florida Scientist* 65:00-00.
- Gaines, M. S., C Sasso, J. E. Diffendorfer, and H. Beck-King. (*In press*). The effects of island size and water level on the demography of small mammals in the Everglades. *In Tree Islands of South Florida*. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Sasso, C and M. S. Gaines (*in review*). Microhabitat use by small mammals in Key Largo.